Subsidy for export of spices

6. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any proposals for providing subsidies for export of spices especially pepper and cardamom, during the year 2005;

(b) if so, the steps taken and factors considered to take the decision in details category-wise;

(c) the quantity of spices especially pepper and cardamom exported under various provisions, provision-wise, category-wise for last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the quantity of spices especially pepper and cardamom imported under various provisions for the last three years, year-wise, provision-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has announced a scheme for grant of a WTO compatible subsidy on export of 20,000 metric tonnes of pepper from India at the rate of Rs. 5.00 per kg (or the actual cost incurred, whichever is less) for international freight and Rs. 2.00 per kg for internal transport. The subsidy will be provided on a first-come-first-served basis. This will be a one time measure and will end on 31 March, 2006. Since the subsidy offered has to be WTO compatible, the scheme has been designed to offset costs of international transport and freight, domestic transport and/ or costs of marketing.

(c) Export of spices, including pepper and cardamom, is free. The quantity of spices exported, especially pepper and cardamom, during last three years is as follows:

Year	Export of total spices (Quantity in Tonnes)	Export of Pepper (Quantity in Tonnes)	Export of small cardamom (Quantity in Tonnes)
2002-03	264,107	21,609	682
2003-04	254,382	16,635	757
2004-05	335,488	14,150	650

Source: Spices Board

(d) The quantity of spices imported, especially pepper and cardamom, during last three years is as follows:

Year	Import of total spices (Quantity in Tonnes)	Import of Pepper (Quantity in Tonnes)	Import of small cardamom (Quantity in Tonnes)
2002-03	121,366	15,392	323 60
2003-04	126,235	14,334	352
2004-05	99,100	17,725	

Source: Spices Board

Industrial licensing policy

7. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed the compulsory licensing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications for industrial licensing received/cleared for compulsory licensing during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for quick clearance of applications for industrial licensing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Review of the Policy on Industrial Licensing is an ongoing process. The Government has, *vide* notification dated 23rd September, 2005, dispensed with the requirement of industrial licence in drugs and pharmaceuticals sectors.

(c) and (d) Since January 2002, upto October 2005, 529 applications for grant of Industrial Licence have been received. Out of which 425 applications have been disposed off. Statement showing State-wise position is annexed (See below). Applications for grant of Industrial Licence are considered by the Government on an ongoing basis, on the recommendations of the Licensing Committee in consultation with concerned Ministries and State Government, as the case may be.